

# Queensland Health

State Budget

05-06



Budget Highlights

Smart State



# Queensland Health

## Message from the Minister

**In 2005-06 the Queensland Government has earmarked another record health budget at \$5.35 billion – an increase of 8.4 per cent on 2004-05.**



Much of the investment this financial year recognises the success of programs last year around elective surgery and improved preventative health care.

A priority of this year's budget includes further care and support for Queenslanders recovering from pre-existing diseases and illnesses.

Key health areas such as care for patients with heart problems and cancer have been targeted over four years.

The budget also includes increased spending in areas such as Indigenous health and mental health.

In 2005-06, health spending will include:

- \$21.3 million on cardiac care, cancer treatment and chronic disease treatment;
- \$146.2 million on major hospital developments, including emergency departments at Dalby, Logan and Redcliffe and redevelopments at Ingham, Innisfail and Yeppoon;
- \$67.8 million on health technology to support areas such as emergency departments, surgical and intensive care;
- \$61.7 million towards construction of residential aged care facilities at places such as Maryborough, Roma and Warwick;
- \$8.2 million towards the enhancement of community mental health services;
- \$7.6 million to improve the health of Indigenous Queenslanders through the prevention, early detection and early intervention of chronic disease; and
- \$5 million to continue to improve access to renal services across the State.

This financial year will also signal the starting point for new expenditure on information and communication technologies vital to the well-being of a health system which supports Queensland Health's care of more than 35,000 patients every day.

This Government will continue to tackle the challenges posed by a modern and continually evolving health system, not just to meet today's challenges but just as importantly the challenges ahead.

**Gordon Nuttall MP**  
Queensland Health



The 2005-06 Budget will better support Queenslanders at greatest risk of illness or injury or those experiencing complications from pre-existing health conditions. As part of Queensland Health's commitment to this, key health areas have been targeted for a funding increase of \$465 million over four years (2005-06 funding in brackets).

### Better medical treatments

#### \$151 (\$10) million to help treat chronic disease

A \$151 million funding package over four years will help prevent chronic diseases and their key risk factors. In turn, this will reduce avoidable hospital admissions and improve quality of life.

An initial investment of \$10 million will be earmarked for:

- improved prevention initiatives to address key risk factors such as physical inactivity and poor nutrition
- integrated service delivery models for care located in North Lakes and surrounds, Logan-Beaudesert and Innisfail
- increased community-based capacity to support chronic care coordination and reduce avoidable hospital admissions
- a Queensland approach to chronic disease self-management

#### \$60 (\$5.8) million for cardiac care

Over the next four years, \$60 million will be allocated to improve cardiac services in Queensland including treatment and preventive measures.

As part of this investment \$5.8 million will be allocated from the 2005-06 Budget to improve tertiary and secondary care, including:

- \$4.8 million in additional funding to operate the new cardiac catheter laboratory at the Gold Coast
- \$300,000 for additional cardiac rehabilitation programs
- \$300,000 for the management of heart failure for Princess Alexandra Hospital Health Service District
- \$400,000 for additional early intervention procedures.

#### \$62.5 (\$5.5) million for cancer treatment

\$5.5 million will be allocated in 2005-06 from a four-year \$62.5 million commitment towards the treatment and care of cancer patients.

This year's funding will target four areas:

- \$4.5 million to further improve the multi-strategy tobacco control initiative
- \$500,000 to provide additional recurrent funds for the operation of the statewide Positron Emission Tomography (PET) scanner service and Cyclotron at Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital
- \$250,000 for a specialist medical oncologist at Royal Children's Hospital
- \$250,000 for a specialist clinical haematologist on the Gold Coast



### **\$49 (\$5) million to treat renal disease**

The quality of life for renal disease sufferers will be improved with a \$5 million allocation from this year's budget, part of a \$49 million four-year package. This will help improve access to renal services and meet growing demand, including:

- low dependency, acute and self-care dialysis services at locations across the State
- completion of telehealth links between low-dependency services and senior clinicians at the major centres
- improving access to surgery

### **\$78 (\$9.6) million to improve services and care for the ageing**

In 2005-06, \$9.6 million is allocated to a joint funding agreement with the Australian Department of Health and Ageing. This is part of a \$78 million commitment towards healthier ageing initiatives over four years.

The funding will provide transition care to older Queenslanders eligible for residential aged care outside hospital, after being discharged from acute care. The allocation will provide:

- 200 transition care places in 2005-06
- 351 transition places in 2006-07

Each place will provide up to 12 weeks care in either a person's home or residential facility.

Funding will also be provided for implementation of Queensland Health's Directions for Aged Care 2004 – 2011, enhancing services for older Queenslanders to:

- address unnecessary hospitalisation of older people
- maximise functionality of older Queenslanders
- provide appropriate community placements and care

### **\$9 million to Home and Community Care initiatives**

At least \$9 million in additional funding will be directed to the Home and Community Care program, bringing the total joint Commonwealth-State program funding to \$275 million in 2005-06.

### **\$3 million for rehabilitation and after-hospital care**

An additional \$3 million to assist people with a smoother transition at home after a stay in hospital and other community-based services.

### **\$1.8 million to Cerebral Palsy Register**

\$1.8 million in additional funding will be allocated towards a national cerebral palsy register as part of Queensland's first Statewide Cerebral Palsy Service.

### **\$4.6 million for better hearing**

Increased funding of \$4.6 million will be provided to continue the expansion of the Healthy Hearing program to provide hearing screening to newborn babies.

### **\$500,000 for lithotripsy services**

Ongoing funding of \$500,000 will be provided to cover the increased costs of providing lithotripsy services for public patients, a non-invasive method of treating kidney conditions.



## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health

### \$68.8m (\$7.6) million to improve Indigenous health

\$7.6 million has been allocated in 2005-06 to improve the health of Indigenous Queenslanders and implement Queensland Health's response to the National Strategic Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health.

Targets include:

- strengthening responses for the prevention and early intervention in chronic disease
- supporting health and safety for children, young people and families
- strengthening responses to alcohol and substance misuse
- improving environmental health
- improving information, research and evidence

The Budget also includes a focus on increasing the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders working within the health system. Queensland Health has committed \$68.8 million over four years as part of an across-government commitment to improving the health of Indigenous Queenslanders.

Other areas to be addressed include:

- tobacco intervention programs
- cervical screening and sexual health
- environmental health issues

## Mental health

### \$65 (\$8.2) million for mental health

\$8.2 million will be provided in 2005-06 as part of \$65 million over four years to support community mental health services. These include:

- 19 clinical positions to provide expert psychiatric assessment and management of patients with concurrent physical and mental health symptoms in general hospital wards
- 29 positions to enhance the quality and safety of community and acute care services, and ensure that vital clinical time is dedicated to the care and treatment of patients
- more than 100 community mental health positions

### \$800,000 to Mental Health Crisis Intervention Teams

The 2005-06 Budget will provide \$800,000 towards this Queensland Police Service led initiative, to establish Mental Health Crisis Intervention Teams. Funding will support the training of mental health clinicians across the State. These health professionals will work with police and ambulance officers to help prevent and safely resolve mental health crisis situations.

### \$7.6 million for mental health construction projects

Capital works projects commencing and continuing in 2005-06 for mental health services include:

- \$4.8 million towards the Cairns Mental Health Community Centre
- \$1.3 million towards the relocation of the Rockhampton Child and Youth Mental Health Service
- \$1.5 million for water mains replacement at The Park

## Children's health

### \$900,000 towards child safety

An additional \$900,000 will be committed in 2005-06 to the Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN) inter-agency child safety teams.



## Improving access to Queensland's health services

Queensland Health is committed to improving access to its range of health services for all Queenslanders. Ongoing funding in 2005-06 will provide greater access to services including:

- **Elective surgery** — \$20 million over two years to continue to reduce public hospital waiting lists and allow an additional 4000 people to receive elective surgery. This will build on the current \$110 million commitment over three and a half years, including \$40 million in 2004-05.
- **Emergency departments** — \$5 million to continue the health hotline initiative, to provide 24-hour access to health information and advice about health services.
- **Gold Coast Hospital Birthing Centre** — \$800,000 will be allocated to operate a birthing service on the Gold Coast, allowing up to 300 women each year access to this service closer to where they live.
- **Blood and Blood Products Funding Package** — An additional \$6.5 million to ensure Queenslanders have access to safe and sufficient blood supplies in both public and private facilities.
- **Improved inpatient capacity at Redcliffe** — \$1.3 million to improve care for inpatients at Redcliffe, including 12 new beds, more nursing capacity and increased clinical supplies.
- **Gold Coast Emergency Department** — \$2 million in additional funding is provided to address growth in demand at the Gold Coast Hospital Emergency Department, Southport Campus.



## Capital Works (infrastructure development)

More than \$561 million has been allocated in 2005-06 to support the continued development of health infrastructure, capable of meeting the demands of a health care system which extends from hospital (acute) care through to community and aged care.

**Hospital upgrades** — Major hospital developments worth \$377.6 million (\$164.9 million in 2005-06), which includes Block 7 at Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, will continue or commence in 2005-06. These developments include:

- Emergency departments at Dalby (\$6.2m) (includes maternity), Gympie (\$6.5m), Logan (\$10.7m), Redcliffe (\$22.3m), Redland (\$7.5m) and Robina (\$18.1m) hospitals
- Specialist outpatient and administrative upgrades at Mackay Hospital (\$3.5m)
- Construction of a Specialist Clinics Building at Hervey Bay Hospital (\$5.3m)
- Redevelopments at Ingham (\$22.1m), Innisfail (\$38.3m) and Yeppoon (\$13m) hospitals
- Establishment of a full-scale emergency department at The Prince Charles Hospital (\$84.5m)
- Relocation of Riverton (child and maternal services) to The Prince Charles Hospital (\$8.8m)
- Modifications to the Nambour Hospital mortuary (\$1m)
- Air-conditioning upgrades at Queen Elizabeth II Hospital (\$2.8m)
- Expansion of the Caloundra Health Service (\$50m)
- Upgrade of day surgery, surgical ward and pharmacy at Atherton Hospital (\$1.4m)

**Health technology** — \$67.8 million will be spent on health technology to support the medical work in emergency surgery, intensive care, maternity, neonatal, diagnostic imaging, dental, pathology and for support staff. Significant projects include:

- Positron Emission Tomography (PET) scanner and Cyclotron at Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (\$9m)
- Computed Tomography (CT) scanner at Redland Hospital (\$2.2m)
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) at Logan Hospital (\$3.1m)

**Residential aged care** — \$61.7 million in 2005-06 will be used for construction of residential aged care facilities, including: Maryborough (\$8.3m), Redlands (\$879,000), Dalby (\$11.5m), Roma (\$10.7m), Warwick (\$6.9m) and Wondai (\$12.2m).

**Renal projects** — Projects to improve renal care for patients throughout the State include:

- \$1.8 million for a Cooktown satellite renal service
- \$3 million for a renal dialysis service at Robina Hospital
- \$3 million for a renal dialysis service at Redland Hospital
- \$1.3 million for a Thursday Island satellite renal service

**Staff accommodation** — Staff accommodation is to be upgraded in regional centres throughout the State. These include accommodation centres, by region, in:

- Babinda, Emerald, Gladstone, Injune, Springsure and Winton (\$8.5 million)
- Rockhampton (\$4 million)
- Townsville (\$2.5 million)
- Kowanyama, Lockhart River, Pormpuraaw (\$1.9 million)

#### **Information and communication technologies (ICT)**

— Investments in ICT systems and infrastructure over the next four years include:

- \$1 million to upgrade the Queensland Cancer Registry
- \$135 million on patient administration and clinical information systems
- \$3.1 million to finalise the implementation of the oral health information system
- \$13.2 million to replace the radiology information system
- \$89 million to replace or upgrade information and communication technology

### Training and support

**Additional medical internships** — \$2.2 million is allocated for an additional 60 internships for Queensland medical graduates commencing in 2005-06

**Chief Nursing Advisor** — \$300,000 is committed to support the role of Chief Nursing Advisor within

Queensland Health to advise the Minister and Director-General directly on nursing issues

### Investing in whole-of-Government partnerships

Queensland Health will work with other government agencies to target areas which require a coordinated approach. Key initiatives in the 2005-06 Budget include the following.

#### **\$5.6 million towards the health of the homeless**

\$5.6 million will be allocated in 2005-06 to develop teams to assist the homeless across the State and establish 30 transitory accommodation places for homeless people with a mental illness.

#### **\$1.7 million for Drug Courts Program**

\$1.7 million will be provided in 2005-06 to continue the operation of the Drug Courts in South East and North Queensland. Queensland Health support includes the provision of a range of alcohol and drug assessment treatments and rehabilitation services.

#### **\$3 million to support forensic science**

The Queensland Police Service will provide an additional \$3 million to Queensland Health in 2005-06 for forensic services. This is part of the Queensland Government's 2004 election promise to clear the DNA profiling and crime scene samples backlog.





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